(b) 57 telephone exchanges are connected with Digital Microwave System at present in the State.

(c) 14 telephone exchanges are likely to be opened in Jammu and Kashmir during 2004-05.

Retention of Licensing Power by DoT

719. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom policy of 1991 has been revamped and the Department of Telecom has decided to retain licensing powers;

(b) if so, to what extent this telecom policy of 1999 has been revamped and what are the changes likely to be made; and

(c) to what extent it would be more beneficial than 1991 policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There was no Telecom Policy of 1991.

(b) An Addendum to the New Telecom Policy-1999 was issued in November, 2003 for Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services and Unified Access Service Licence permitting Licensee to provide all telecommunication/telegraph services covering various geographical areas using any technology and to provide Basic and/or Cellular Services using and technology in a defined service area. Keeping in view the rapidly changing technology, the Government feel that there is scope and need for suitably reviewing and revamping the NTP-1999. Necessary changes will be brought in at the appropriate time and no time-frame can be fixed at this stage.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Upgradation of PCO centres

720. SHRIMATIKUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCO centres in the country that have been upgraded as multiple internet service centres;